

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. *(currently amended)* An elastically stretchable composite sheet, comprising:  
a first web having x- and y-directions orthogonal to each other and being elastically stretchable at least in said y-direction; and

a second web comprising thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers and being inelastically stretchable in said y-direction, said first and second webs being bonded to each other in bonding zones intermittently distributed in said y-direction;

wherein

a length of each of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers that extends between each pair of the adjacent bonding zones where said thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber is bonded to said first web is longer than a straight distance between said adjacent bonding zones;

said first web is a fibrous web comprising component fibers of elastic material; [[and]]

each of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers has a cross-section taken in a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber, said cross section having a width w and a height h, as measured in orthogonal directions, dimensioned so that a ratio of h/w is less than 0.5;

said second web further comprises sections of unsplit conjugate fibers, said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers branching from the conjugate fibers which comprise at least two types of thermoplastic synthetic resin that are splittable into said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers each made of one of said types of resin; and

the sections of unsplit conjugate fibers are bonded to said first web in said bonding zones.

2. (previously presented) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said cross section is a substantially rectangular cross-section having a long side that defines said width w and a short side that defines said height h.

3. (previously presented) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said cross section is a substantially triangular cross-section having a base that defines said width w and a height that defines said height h.

4. *(canceled)*

5. *(currently amended)* A process of making an elastically stretchable composite sheet, said process comprising the steps of:

- a. continuously feeding a first web of elastic material in a direction;
- b. obtaining a plurality of conjugate fibers each comprising at least two types of thermoplastic synthetic resin that are separable from each other, and then continuously feeding said conjugate fibers in said direction as a second web;
- c. placing said first web and said second web of said conjugate fibers upon each other and bonding said first and second webs together in bonding zones arranged intermittently in said direction to form a composite web;
- d. after said bonding in step c, stretching said composite web in said direction with a sufficient stress to split said conjugate fibers up into split fibers of said types of thermoplastic synthetic resin, without splitting said conjugate fibers in said bonding zones where said conjugate fibers have been bonded to said first web; and
- e. allowing said stretched composite web to ~~contact~~ contract to obtain said composite sheet.

6. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising a step of continuously feeding said composite web in stretched or contracted state and subjecting said conjugate fibers to high pressure columnar water streams discharged from a plurality of nozzles to split said conjugate fibers up into said split fibers.

7. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 6, wherein each of the split fibers obtained in the step of stretching said composite web or in the step of subjecting said conjugate fibers to the high pressure columnar water streams has a cross-section taken in a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of said split fiber, said cross-section being defined by a width  $w$  and a height  $h$ , and wherein a ratio of  $h/w$  is less than 0.5.

8. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, wherein the step of obtaining said conjugate fibers comprises melt-spinning.

9. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing said first web which is a fibrous web comprising component fibers made of said elastic material.

10. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 9, wherein the step of providing said first web includes

discharging said component fibers from an extruder; and  
mechanically entangling or welding or adhesively bonding said component fibers with each other to form said first web.

11. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing said first web which is a non-woven fabric.

12. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing said first web which is a woven fabric.

13. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, wherein said direction is a machine direction of said composite sheet.

14. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, wherein said at least two types of thermoplastic synthetic resin have different stretchability degrees, allowing said conjugate fibers to split in said stretching step.

15. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 5, consisting essentially of steps a) through e).

16. (previously presented) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said first web is a non-woven fabric.

17. (previously presented) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said first web is a woven fabric.

18. *(canceled)*